

subtilis belong to gram-positive bacterium. It is different from gram-negative bacterium of Claim 1 of the present invention.

Furthermore Kimura also teaches a fermentation liquid medium including "glucose" (see col.5, line 2) and "alkaline protease" (see col.5, line 20). This is different from a glucide whose major component is a polysaccharide of Claim 1 of the present invention.

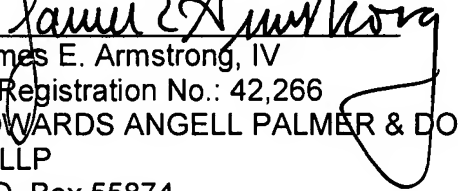
Simply stated, Kimura is technically different and not relevant to the claimed gram-negative bacteria.

In response to the specie election of edible plants, the applicants further elect "wheat flour" as a single edible species of edible plant. All claims read on wheat flour.

It is believed the provisionally elected claims are allowable.

Dated: November 29, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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